

Members:
Sen. David Ford, Chair
Sen. Johnny Nugent
Sen. Katie Wolf
Sen. Richard Young
Rep. Robert Bischoff
Rep. John Frenz
Rep. William Friend
Rep. Richard Mangus



AGRICULTURAL MATTERS EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 13, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 7

Members Present: Sen. David Ford, Chair; Sen. Katie Wolf; Sen. Richard Young; Rep. John Frenz; Rep. William Friend; Rep. Richard Mangus;

Members Absent: Sen. Johnny Nugent; Rep. Robert Bischoff.

Sen. David Ford, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at about 10:15 a.m.. Sen. Ford then introduced Committee members and staff.

Consideration of PD 3376

The Committee considered PD 3376 which would appropriate \$2.8 million to Purdue University for county extension educators and \$400,000 for agricultural research and extension for FY2000.¹

Responding to a question from the Committee, Mr. John Bough, Purdue University, stated that the \$400,000 was for the purpose of replicating a pilot project currently being conducted in southwest Indiana where Purdue University research specialists at the agricultural center teach courses at Vincennes University. The money would be used to replicate this program in southeast Indiana where Purdue research specialists would teach at Indiana University-Purdue University - Columbus. There was also discussion as to the possibility of extending this project to other regions of the state in the future.

¹This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230, State House, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856 and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789.

It was properly moved and seconded that the substance of PD 3376 be a recommendation of the Committee to the General Assembly in the form of a resolution. The roll was called and the motion passed unanimously by a vote of six to zero.

Other Business

Sen. Ford noted that staff had included in the members' packets a document jointly produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entitled "Draft Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations" (September 11, 1998).² Regarding the confined feeding rulemaking issue, Sen. Ford stated that agricultural groups and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) are continuing to work on the issue.

Rep. Friend added that the previous week, there had been an important meeting between the Confined Feeding Task Force that was working with IDEM. He stated that IDEM had gone to publication with a working draft, but emphasized that the document was not in final form. Input was still being gathered and there will be public hearings before anything is finalized. Rep. Friend stated that public hearings are likely to be held in February.

Rep. Friend commented that on Tuesday, September 29, during the Farm Progress Show, a round-table was held at the Farm Bureau Building with some of Indiana's legislators along with legislators from Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio. Discussion topics included siting of confined feeding operations, land use planning, farmland preservation, and water quality issues. Rep. Friend added that they discussed how problems were being handled in other states. He added that these states share common problems and that Indiana is not unique.

Regarding the farmland preservation issue discussed at a previous meeting of this Committee, Sen. Ford stated that the Farmland Preservation Commission was asked to try and forward any legislative recommendations to this Committee in advance of the 1999 session, if possible. However, the Commission responded that they have not yet finalized their report, nor has the Commission yet prepared recommendations for the Governor. Recommendations, however, should be out by December. Sen. Wolf commented that the Commission was, in fact, still having public hearings.

Sen. Ford thanked legislators and staff for their work and participation during the interim. He also thanked members of the public for attending and providing input at the meetings of the Committee.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned.

²Copies of this document are on file in the Legislative Information Center (See footnote 1).